

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112 2nd Paragraph

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite.

The rejections are addressed as follows:

1). In the Office Action, it is stated that "in claim 1, it is unclear if each of the phrases beginning with 'in response to each activation of the first button' (as recited in line 4) is conjunctive or disjunctive with respect to the phrase beginning with 'in response to each activation of the second button' as recited in line 12."

In response, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to add the conjunction, "and", on line 11 of Claim 1. Similarly, Claim 3 is amended to add the conjunction, "and", on line 13 of Claim 3. Claim 5 is amended to add the conjunction, "and", on line 13 of Claim 5.

2). In the Office Action, it is stated that, "in claim 1, the phrase 'without further user input' is indefinite because it is unclear if it without any and all further user input as the claim currently suggests or some subset thereof."

In response, Applicants have amended Claim 1, Claim 3 and Claim 5 to read as follows: "without any user input subsequent to the activation of the second button."

3). In the Office Action, it is stated that "in claim 2, the phrase 'without further user input' is unclear since it is unclear when this would occur."

In response, Applicants have amended Claim 2, Claim 4 and Claim 6 have been amended to clarify that the user need not give input for specifying a date for the created expense item.

4). In the Office Action, it is stated that "in claim 3, the phrase 'a set unreported flag' as recited in line 16 unclear." It is respectfully submitted that the phrase "a set unreported flag" refers to the action of "setting an unreported flag for the created

expense item" in line 13 of Claim 3. Similarly in Claim 1, the phrase "a set unreported flag" refers to the action of "setting an unreported flag for the created expense item" in line 11 of Claim 1. In Claim 5, the phrase "a set unreported flag" refers to the action "sets an unreported flag for the created expense item" in line 13 of Claim 5.

Thus, in view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph be withdrawn.

Defining Claim Terms

The Examiner indicated that applicants have foregone their opportunity to define particular claim terms based upon their use in the application as filed as a result of not expressly identifying in their prior response any such claim terms and the basis for their definition. Applicants have no quarrel with the Examiner's efforts to inquire about any present wish to define claim terms based upon their use in the application as filed, but it is applicants' position that no authority exists for the Examiner to limit the time in which applicants can advance such definitions. Accordingly, applicants reserve the right to identify reasonable definitions for particular claim terms at any point in the future.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

8. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vance et al. (U.S. 6,442,526 B1)("Vance").

The Office Action states that "Vance discloses a graphical user interface ('GUI') for creating an expense report." It is respectfully submitted that Vance fails to disclose or

suggest or make obvious the fully automated creation of expense reports. Independent claims 1, 3, and 5, each include the novel feature of creating expense reports in response to two user actions, namely the activation of a first and second button. In response to the activation of the first button, the following are performed: creating new activity item, establishing a user-selected activity type for the created activity item, creating an expense item, consulting a predetermined mapping from activity types to expense types to automatically establish an expense type for the created expense item, and setting an unreported flag for the created expense item. In response to the activation of the second button, the following are performed: creating a new expense report, for each created expense item having a set unreported flag, adding the created expense item to the created expense report and clearing the created expense item's unreported flag. Thus, expense reports are created in a fully automated fashion after the second button is activated by the user. In contrast, Vance et al. teaches away from such a feature. In Vance, the expense reports are created semi-automatically. The traveler in Vance constructs "an expense report semi-automatically" (see column 9, lines 1-5, emphasis added). Further, in Vance, the user is required to navigate through at least 13 GUI pages and supply user input in each of the 13 GUI pages before a report can be generated semi-automatically. Thus, Vance does not disclose or suggest generating a report in response solely to the activation of a first and second button. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 3, and 5 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 4, and 6 are dependent on claims 1, 3 and 5, respectively, and include all the features of their corresponding independent claim. Additionally, these claims recite

additional features whose functionality is neither disclosed nor suggested by Vance. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 4 and 6 are allowable for at least the reasons provided herein with respect to Claims 1, 3 and 5. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 4 and 6 recite additional features that independently render Claims 2, 4 and 6 patentable over the cited art.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

If additional fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2207, under Order No. 384818524US2 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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